

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF NEVADA

RONNIE EDWARDS,

Case No. 2:19-cv-01268-GMN-VCF

Plaintiff,

ORDER

v.

BENJAMIN ESTILL, *et al.*,

Defendants.

I. DISCUSSION

This action began with a *pro se* civil rights complaint filed under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 by a former state prisoner. On December 8, 2020, this Court issued an order directing Plaintiff to file his updated address with this Court on or before January 7, 2021. (ECF No. 12 at 1.) That deadline has now passed, and Plaintiff has not filed his updated address or otherwise responded to the Court's order.

District courts have the inherent power to control their dockets and “[i]n the exercise of that power, they may impose sanctions including, where appropriate . . . dismissal” of a case. *Thompson v. Hous. Auth. of City of Los Angeles*, 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir. 1986). A court may dismiss an action, with prejudice, based on a party's failure to prosecute an action, failure to obey a court order, or failure to comply with local rules. See *Ghazali v. Moran*, 46 F.3d 52, 53-54 (9th Cir. 1995) (affirming dismissal for noncompliance with local rule); *Ferdik v. Bonzelet*, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260-61 (9th Cir. 1992) (affirming dismissal for failure to comply with an order requiring amendment of complaint); *Carey v. King*, 856 F.2d 1439, 1440-41 (9th Cir. 1988) (affirming dismissal for failure to comply with local rule requiring *pro se* plaintiffs to keep court apprised of address); *Malone v. U.S. Postal Service*, 833 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987) (affirming dismissal for failure to comply with court order); *Henderson v. Duncan*, 779 F.2d 1421, 1424 (9th Cir. 1986) (affirming dismissal for lack of prosecution and failure to comply with local rules).

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1 In determining whether to dismiss an action for lack of prosecution, failure to obey
2 a court order, or failure to comply with local rules, the court must consider several factors:
3 (1) the public's interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court's need to
4 manage its docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring
5 disposition of cases on their merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives.
6 See *Thompson*, 782 F.2d at 831; *Henderson*, 779 F.2d at 1423-24; *Malone*, 833 F.2d at
7 130; *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1260-61; *Ghazali*, 46 F.3d at 53.

8 Here, the Court finds that the first two factors, the public's interest in expeditiously
9 resolving this litigation and the Court's interest in managing the docket, weigh in favor of
10 dismissal. The third factor, risk of prejudice to Defendants, also weighs in favor of
11 dismissal, since a presumption of injury arises from the occurrence of unreasonable delay
12 in filing a pleading ordered by the court or prosecuting an action. See *Anderson v. Air*
13 *West*, 542 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976). The fourth factor—public policy favoring
14 disposition of cases on their merits—is greatly outweighed by the factors in favor of
15 dismissal discussed herein. Finally, a court's warning to a party that his failure to obey
16 the court's order will result in dismissal satisfies the "consideration of alternatives"
17 requirement. *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1262; *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 132-33; *Henderson*, 779
18 F.2d at 1424. The Court's order requiring Plaintiff to file his updated address with the
19 Court by January 7, 2021, expressly stated: "Failure to comply with this rule may result in
20 the dismissal of the action, entry of default judgment, or other sanctions as deemed
21 appropriate by the court." (ECF No. 12 at 1.) Thus, Plaintiff had adequate warning that
22 dismissal would result from his noncompliance with the Court's order to file his updated
23 address by January 7, 2021.

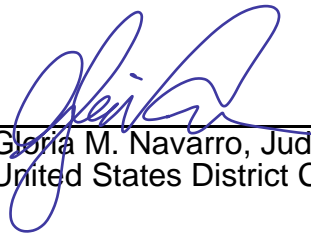
24 It is therefore ordered that this action is dismissed without prejudice based on
25 Plaintiff's failure to file an updated address in compliance with this Court's December 8,
26 2020, order.

27 It is further ordered that Plaintiff's application to proceed *in forma pauperis* for
28 prisoners (ECF No. 1) is denied as moot.

1 It is further ordered that Plaintiff's motion for appointment of counsel (ECF No. 5)
2 is denied as moot.

3 It is further ordered that the Clerk of Court will enter judgment accordingly.

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5 DATED THIS 14 day of January 2021.

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Gloria M. Navarro, Judge
United States District Court